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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO	
09/400,428	09/21/1999	NOBUTAKA SHINOHARA	0039-7369-28	3433	
22850 7	7590 11/19/2004	11/19/2004		EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			VANDERPUYE, KENNETH N		
1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
	•		2661		
			DATE MAILED: 11/19/200-	4	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)					
	09/400,428	SHINOHARA ET AL.					
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
	Kenneth N Vanderpuye	2661					
The MAILING DATE of this communication ap Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet wit	th the correspondence address					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1. after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a rep. If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statut Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	136(a). In no event, however, may a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTER, cause the application to become AB	eply be timely filed (30) days will be considered timely. FHS from the mailing date of this communication. ANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).					
Status							
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on	•						
•	s action is non-final.						
3) Since this application is in condition for allowa	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is						
closed in accordance with the practice under	closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.						
Disposition of Claims	·						
1)⊠ Claim(s) <u>3-5 and 9-24</u> is/are pending in the application.							
-	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.						
5)⊠ Claim(s) <u>9-24</u> is/are allowed.	_						
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>3</u> is/are rejected.	• • •						
7)⊠ Claim(s) <u>4 and 5</u> is/are objected to.	Claim(s) <u>4 and 5</u> is/are objected to.						
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/	Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.						
Application Papers							
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examin	er.						
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.							
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).							
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct	ction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).					
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the E	examiner. Note the attached	Office Action or form PTO-152.					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119							
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreig a) All b) Some * c) None of:	n priority under 35 U.S.C. §	119(a)-(d) or (f).					
 Certified copies of the priority document 	nts have been received.						
Certified copies of the priority document	nts have been received in Ap	oplication No					
Copies of the certified copies of the price	ority documents have been	received in this National Stage					
application from the International Burea							
* See the attached detailed Office action for a lis	t of the certified copies not i	received.					
Attachment/e)	•						
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) Interview S	ummary (PTO-413)					
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date							
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 Paper No(s)/Mail Date	5) Notice of In 6) Other:	formal Patent Application (PTO-152) 					

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fichou et al.(5,790,522).

Fichou et al. teaches a serial transmission path switching system comprising:

a switch section(Fig. 2@24 having a plurality of input lines and a plurality of output lines to perform line-switching between input and output lines (Fig. 2), a plurality of first serial transmission paths connected to the input lines, respectively (Fig. 2 arrows leading from receive adapters to switch), input buffers connected to the input side communication devices and terminals of the first serial transmission paths (Fig. 2, transmission paths from sources are connected to input lines via input queues)

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respectively, to equalize transmission signals from said input side communication devices and send the signals to the first serial transmission paths(Fig. 2@25).

a plurality of second serial transmission paths connected to the input lines, respectively(Fig. 2, transmission paths leading to destinations are connected to output lines via queue), output buffers connected to the output side communication devices and terminals of the second serial transmission paths, respectively, to equalize transmission signals from the second serial transmission paths and send the signals to said output side communication devices(Fig. 2, output queues), a receiving section inserted between the first serial transmission paths and the input lines to receive the transmission signals from the first serial transmission paths and to supply the signals to the input lines(Fig. 2, RSI), a transmitting section inserted between the output lines and the second serial transmission paths to receive the transmission signals from the output lines and supply the signals to the second serial transmission paths(Fig. 2@XSI).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9-24 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth N Vanderpuye whose telephone number is 703-308-7828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(7:30-5:00) Second Friday Off.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KNV 11/13/04

KENNETH VANDERPUYE PRIMARY EXAMINER